HISTORY AND GENEALOGY

OF A BRANCH

OF THE

MICHIGAN MEADS

BY:

DOUGLAS A. MEAD

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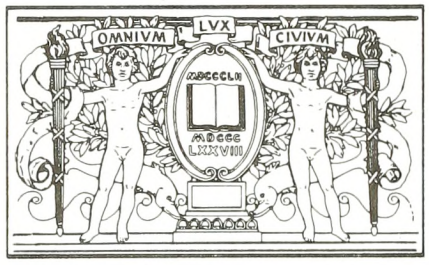

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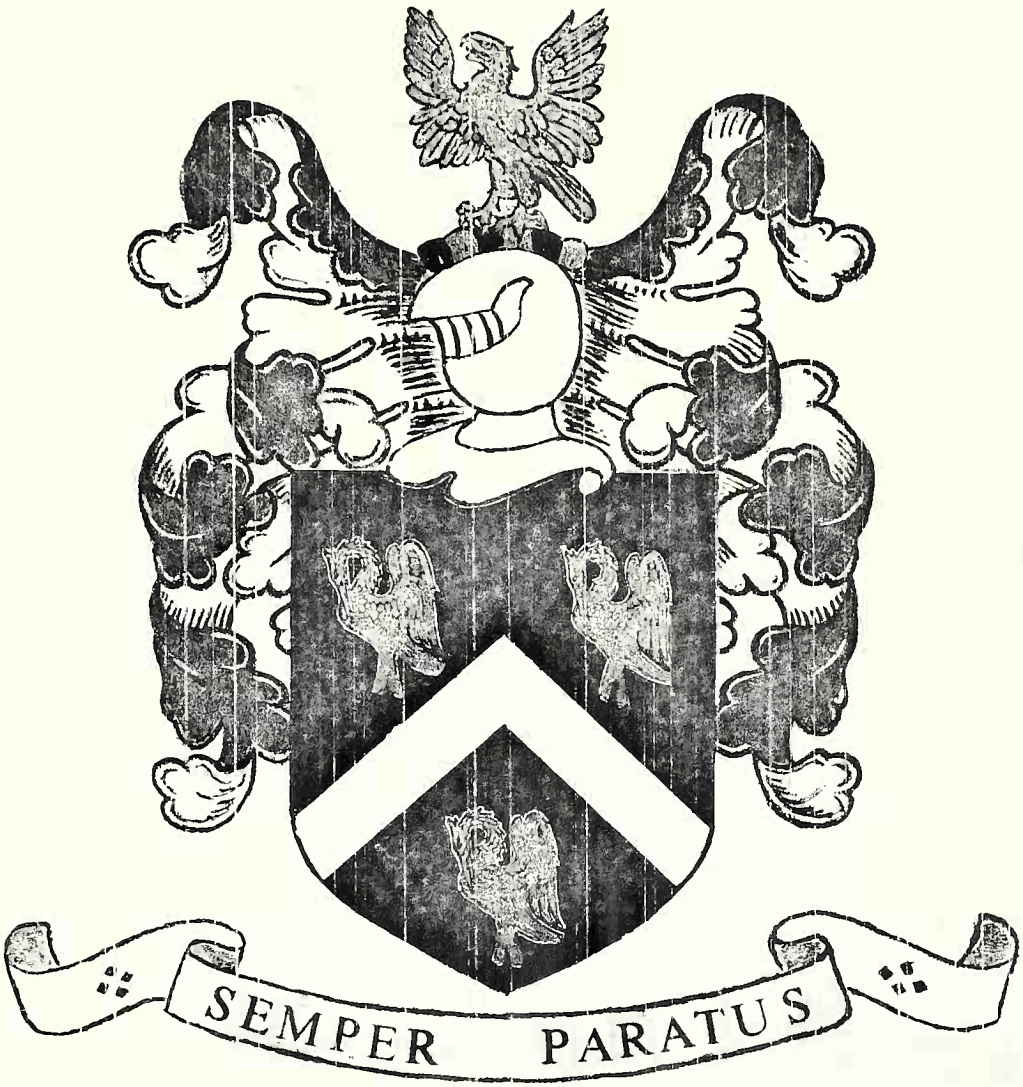

MEAD

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FOREWORD

The information contained in this book was obtained primarily from two sources; a book written by Spencer P. Mead in 1901 entitled "History and Genealogy of the Mead Family of Fairfield County, Connecticut, eastern New York, western Vermont and western Pennsylvania from A.D. 1180 to 1900" and the memories of living members of our family, including my father, James L. Mead, my Great-Aunt Amber Mead Burns, and my aunts, uncles and cousins. We represent a small segment of the 10th, 11th and 12th generations of Meads to live in the United States since William Mead arrived in Boston Harbor in 1635.

Spencer Mead spent 15 years in researching his book while travelling throughout the United States and visiting England and France several times. The hours he spent straining his eyes peering through the birth records, marriage records, death records, tax records, and property deeds in innumerable clerks' offices, libraries, courthouses, etc. must have been staggering. The efforts I have made to tie in our living branch of the family with the past generations are miniscule in comparison. I hope that what is presented here will not only be informative and interesting for the members of our family, but will also instill in them a deeper understanding and pride of the Mead family, past and present.

THE MEADS IN ENGLAND, 1066-1635

The Mead family is believed to descend from people who lived in the area of Normandy, France. Following the conquest of England in 1066 by William the Conqueror, many of King William's Norman followers came to England where they were given lands in reward for their prior services. At least one of the Norman families which settled in England had the name of dePrato. This translates roughly as "of the meadow". It is believed that the name dePrato, over a period of time became Anglicized and changed to Mead and/or Meade. The name Mead began appearing in land and tax records in the 14th century.

During the reign of King Henry VI, about 1420, Thomas Mead, Esq., settled in County Essex. Apparently, at that time, there were eight Mead families living in the area. Four of these families adopted a coat of arms. It had a black shield with a chevron, represented by two rafters of a house joined together and descending in the form of compasses to the extremities of the shield, and three gold pelicans,[1] two above and one below the chevron. There was an eagle crest and the motto - SEMPTER PARATUS (always ready), appeared at

[1]The pelican may seem like an unusual choice for a coat-of-arms, but it was used to represent self-sacrifice and dedication to family. Pelicans feed their young by regurgitation and have a habit of plucking out their breast feathers to line the nest. This combination of activities led people in early times to think pelicans actually plucked flesh from their bodies to feed their young.

the bottom. (A "Mead" coat of arms which is distributed by a "genealogical research" company in Ohio called Halberts is similar). This coat of arms is thought to be identical to the one used by the early Meads in Massachusetts and Connecticut. If so, it is probable that it is also the coat-of-arms of the Michigan Meads. (It is considered improper to claim and display a coat-of-arms without proof of direct male lineage to the original grantee).

William Mead (1600-1663) and his three brothers, John, Richard and Gabriel (Goodman), lived in or near the town of Wisbeach in northern Cambridgeshire, England. Cambridgeshire had an active group of congregationalists with which the Meads were affiliated.

King Charles I became King of England in 1625. He almost immediately began imposing new taxes, dissolved parliament because the members would not submit to his demands and, through the Archbishop of Canterbury, began making life difficult for non-conformist churches and their members. This combination of heavy taxes and religious persecution in the 1620's and 1630's stimulated the first major movement of pilgrims from England to the colonies in America.

In April 1635, William Mead and his three brothers boarded the ship Elizabeth in the port of Lydd, Kent. William and Gabriel were married and brought their families. Richard and John were single. The Elizabeth, under the command of a Captain Stagg, arrived in Boston Harbor in June, 1635.

THE MEADS IN COLONIAL AMERICA, 1635 - 1800

Generation One

After living for a short time together in Boston, the Mead brothers decided to move to the smaller colonies to the south. Gabriel Mead and his family and the single brothers, Richard and John, settled in Massachusetts. William Mead, his wife, Martha, and their three children, joined the colonies that left Dorchester in 1635-36 to start new communities at Hartford, Stamford and Wethersfield, Connecticut. William lived at Hempstead, Nassau Island (now Long Island) for a short time, but returned to Stamford in 1641. He apparently spent the rest of his life there and died in 1663.

William is the ancestor of the Meads of Fairfield County, Connecticut and, subsequently, the Meads of Dutchess, Westchester, St. Lawrence, Chenango, Saratoga and Warren Counties, New York; Rutland and Bennington Counties, Vermont; Meadville, Pennsylvania; and many of the Meads in the Central, Western and Pacific states. This, of course, includes many of the Meads of Michigan.

William and his wife Martha had three children; Martha (1632 - ?), Joseph (1630 - 1690) and John (1634 - 1699). All three were born in England. They had no other children after arriving in the colonies. The reason for this is unknown, but it was unusual in those times to have a small family.

Generation Two

Joseph Mead appeared to have resided on Long Island until 1660 when he moved to Fairfield County, Connecticut. Joseph was the Assistant Justice of Hempstead, Long Island in 1658. He was the founder of the Norwalk, Ridgefield and North Fairfield County Meads.

There is no record of what happened to Martha.

John Mead and his wife Hannah (Potter) also lived on Long Island and then moved to Fairfield County, Connecticut in 1660 along with Joseph. John was a Member of the Assembly of the General Court from Greenwich in 1679, 1680 and 1686. He and Hannah had 12 children over a period of about 18 years. John was the second step in the lineage leading to our branch of the Michigan Meads. The fifth (or sixth) child of John and Hannah was Jonathan (1665-1727). He was the twin brother of David (1665-1726), who settled at Bedford, Westminster County, New York.

By the time John Mead died in 1699 at the age of 65, he had become a man of considerable property. Part of this property was acquired by his marriage to Hannah, whose father, William Potter, was quite wealthy. In his will, John distributed his lands and wealth to his sons. Jonathan was given "a home lott layed out by me at Horseneck, and all of my lands lying within Horseneck field and a persale of land containing three acres more or less, lying at ye Southeast end of Widow Howe's lott." Similar bequests were made to John's other sons.

Generation Three

Jonathan Mead was the third step of the lineage leading to the present. He lived at Greenwich for awhile with his wife, Martha (Finch), before moving to Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York. Jonathan and Martha had seven children. Their sixth child, Timothy, (1701-?) was the fourth step.

Generation Four

Timothy Mead (I) had two wives, Martha Weeks and Sarah Bouton. One of them accompanied him in 1769 to become one of the first white families to live in what later became the state of Vermont. It is not clear which one, (probably Sarah, considering his age), nor is it clear which of them were the mothers of his six children. This Timothy was the first in a string of three Timothys in our direct line; Timothy (I), the father; Timothy (II), the son; and Timothy (III), the grandson.

Generation Five

Timothy Mead (II) (1724-1800) appears to have spent the latter part of his life in Vermont, after having lived in New York. He may have moved at the same time his father did in 1769. He married Phebe Palmer and they had six children. Spencer Mead reported that this Timothy was gored by an ox and died one year later. Since he died in 1800 at the age of 76, it makes one wonder what a 75 year old man was doing getting himself into a fix like that. Timothy and Phebe lived

in Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont.

THE MEADS OF YOUNG AMERICA 1800-1900

The descendents of William, Goodman, Richard and John, after just five generations, had increased to substantial numbers. This is understandable, when it's remembered that families of 8-10 children were normal then. The hardships of living in those early times and high infant mortality rates didn't stop the Mead family, or thousands of other families, from spreading through the colonies and the young United States. The sad part of this is that with so many Meads being born, getting married, dying - some young and some old, and many moving from place to place either within or between generations, it was impossible for Spencer Mead to trace them all. In the complete family list of our lineage at the back, there are many whose births were recorded and frequently their marriages, but little else is known about them; where they lived, what kind of work they did, etc. Therefore, the middle generations are really little more than lists of names and dates.

Generation Six

Timothy Mead (III) (1755-1828) the son of Timothy (II) and the grandson of Timothy (I), was probably born in Manchester, Bennington County, Vermont. Not much else is known about him except that his wife was Phebe Griffen and

they had eleven children between 1774 and 1794.

Generation Seven

Lewis Mead (1782-Aug.31, 1862) was the fifth child and the fifth son of the third Timothy. Lewis married Abigail Waite and they had seven children between 1808 and 1828. It is likely that Lewis was the first of the Michigan Meads. It is also probable that many of the other Mead families in Michigan share this common ancestor with us. Lewis died on August 31, 1862 at the age of 80 and is buried in the cemetary at New Hudson, Michigan. Abigail is also buried there. Their gravestones were discovered by my uncle, Roy Mead, many years ago. However, it wasn't until recently that we realized that this Lewis Mead was the great-great-grandfather of Uncle Roy, my father, and the rest of the eleventh generation. Lewis was probably a farmer, although it's not known for sure.

Generation Eight

Er W. Mead (1811-?) was the second of Lewis' children. He was married twice. His first wife was Rachel Marlatt and his second was a widow, Mrs. Harriet N. Bullock. Er lived most of his life on a farm near Novi in Gratiot County. Er's brother, Lafayette, lived in Grand Rapids. One of his sisters, Sabrina, also lived in Michigan. It was during this generation that death dates were no longer given by

Spencer Mead. It may be that he couldn't locate them or, perhaps more likely, that during the time he was researching this part of the family, all these people were still alive. Aunt Amber (Mead) Burns believes that Er is buried somewhere in Lafayette Township near Ithaca.

Generation Nine

Lewis Timothy Mead was born in 1851, the seventh child of Er. Lewis proved to be the critical link by which we tie our present generations to those of the past.

My father, James L. Mead, was looking at a copy of Spencer Mead's book in the Detroit Public Library in 1965. (The book had been discovered there by Max Mead, my father's second cousin, many years before.) While glancing through the hundreds of pages with lists of thousands of Meads from all the generations of the Mead family tree in the U.S., he spotted his grandfather's name, Lewis Timothy. When he returned to the library some time later to record information from the book, it had disappeared. It never reappeared and was likely stolen by some unscrupulous member of the Mead family (not our branch, of course).

I was fortunate to locate another copy of Spencer Mead's book in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. It, along with several other books on Meads in the U.S. are part of the genealogical collection. A list of these books is in the back.

Lewis Timothy was born and lived the early portion of his life in Gratiot County, Michigan near his father's farm. He was also a farmer. Lewis married Sarah U. Fournie and they had five children; Charles (1880), Harry (1885), Lee (1888), Clara (1894) and Amber Marie (1895). During the 1880's and 1890's, the family lived at Cedar Lake, near Edmore, in Montcalm Co.

In the year 1900 Lewis Mead moved to Clare County. He moved to find employment so he could support his family. During the following ten years the family moved frequently, usually inside Clare County, as Lewis moved from job to job. They lived in logging camps occasionally while Lewis worked as a sawyer, lived on the shore of Long Lake for awhile, and also lived at several places in Frost Township. Lewis eventually went into business for himself and operated a steam-powered shingle sawmill on the shore of Long Lake and a little later on Townline Creek. The cedar shingles were hauled by team to Farwell.

By 1910 Lewis had saved enough money to buy 60 acres in Frost Township for $300. The family moved in in 1911, after a stone farmhouse and other buildings were completed. He stayed in the mill business, however, and was only a part-time farmer. An additional 20 acres was purchased several years later. Lewis died in March, 1923 and is buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery in Harrison. After Lewis died, Sarah lived in Detroit with her brother-in-law, George Mead, and his son, Max, for many years before going to live with her daughter, Clara, in New Buffalo, Michigan.

" I don't know of another home in the country that had more living in it than this one. Guess we were so busy laughing, singing and having fun that we didn't know there was a depression and we were right in the middle of it."

Clarabelle Mead Harper Brockett

The home of Lewis and Sarah Mead, built in 1911. Frost Township, Clare County, Michigan.
Drawing by Wayne Mead.

Generation Ten

Charles L. Mead, the first child of Lewis Timothy and Sarah, married Jennie Beedy. They had four children; Wayne, Amber June, Marjorie and Clara. Wayne was an architect and lived in Washington, D.C. He drew the sketch of the old farm which is on the previous page.

Lee Mead, the third child of Lewis and Sarah, was a ticket agent for the Union Pacific Railroad in Pendleton, Oregon, where he now lives in retirement with his wife, Emma (Fleck). They have three children; Paul, Helen and Katherine. Paul lives in Beaverton, Oregon (near Portland); Helen in Boulder, Colorado; and Katherine (Fallow) in LaGrande, Oregon.

Clara, Lewis and Sarah's fourth child, married Lawrence Bartlett, Otto Nicol and Theron Crane (one at a time, I presume). Her only son, Lee A., died leaving no children. Clara worked for the New York Central Railroad in New Buffalo, Michigan.

Amber Marie, the last child, married Robert Burns and now lives in Harrison, Michigan. Uncle Bob died in January, 1975. They had six children; Robert - living in California; Bill - killed in WW II; Mary Louise; Priscilla; Josie and Ben.

Harry Mead, the second of Lewis' children, is the father grandfather or great-grandfather of the Meads and Harpers and Coulters for whom this book was really written. Born in 1885 at Cedar Lake, Michigan, in Montcalm County, he became a sawmill worker and part-time farmer, much like his father before him.

He moved to Clare County in 1900 with his family at the age of 15. Harry Mead wasn't in Clare County long before he met and married Alice Norman, who was one year his elder, having been born Oct. 23, 1884 in Thomas, West Virginia. She had arrived in Michigan in 1886 at the age of two and lived on a farm near Harrison. Her father also had a sawmill on Long Lake. Since he produced lumber, he wasn't a competitor with Lewis Mead, who made shingles.

Harry was a lucky man to marry Alice, as she was not only from good solid West Virginia stock with a sawmilling background like his, but she was reputed to be the prettiest young woman in the county. Of course, he was a pretty good looking lad himself at the time.

The young married couple lived either with or near his father for several years after they were married. Their first child, Harold, was born at Jonesville (on the high banks of the Muskegon River, hear the joining of Townline Creek) on February 17, 1903. However, it wasn't long before Harry decided to strike out on his own. He got a job at one of the logging camps near Hermansville in the upper peninsula of Michigan. He went ahead by himself, but sent for Alice and his young son sometime during the winter of 1904-05. Apparently the logging camp was several miles out of town with no transportation available to the camp. When Alice and the baby arrived in Hermansville, she found lodging for the night and the next morning had to walk through the snow out to camp to

join her husband. After also living briefly in Gladstone and Shingleton, they moved back to Long Lake in 1906 or early 1907.

As the years passed, Harry and Alice Mead and their growing family moved frequently, although always staying in or near Clare County. They moved where he could find work and usually farmed on a small scale at the same time. LeRoy was born at Long Lake in 1907; Dee at Leota in 1911; Max at Moddersville in 1913; James at Moddersville in 1915; Clarabelle at Moddersville in 1917. After leaving Moddersville in 1920 they spent several years moving frequently, living for short periods of time at the farm in Frost Township (after Lewis died), on the east side of Frost Township, in Lake City, Beaverton, and finally to a farm at Dale, near Beaverton, in 1925. The family then moved back to the farm in 1929. Velma had been born on the farm May 2, 1922 and Bud (Forrest) the last child, was born May 9, 1924 at Lake City.

The thousands of families that lived on the small northern farms in Michigan, like many other places, had chosen a difficult life. The soils were mostly sandy and not too fertile. Numerous forest fires in the early 1900's had greatly impoverished the soil by burning out the organic content. Farming was, at best, a marginal operation. Harry was a part-time farmer who worked as a shingle sawyer in the local sawmills. The cedar shingles were used for roofs and siding.

The depression years were an especially hard time - although probably no more or less so than for thousands of other families living on similar small farms in the North. Clothing and shoes were in short supply (my dad swears that at times they had to take turns going to school because there weren't enough shoes to go around); food was, if not in short supply, at least much less varied than might have been desirable; and life in general was much more basic and simple than we can even imagine forty years later. I can imagine, however, that life on the Mead farm was not unlike that portrayed on the popular TV show, The Waltons. Pennies were in short supply, but there was no shortage of love or good times.

Several cherished memories of Aunt Velma's give a warm insight into life on the farm and the personality of Harry Mead.

> " I was very close to my father and loved being with him whenever possible.
>
> During hay-time on the farm I always was with him on the mower and rake. I'd sit in front of him and sometimes would go to sleep and he'd hold me and drive the team and keep on with his work.
>
> My father was a lumber man and my mother had gone with him to the lumber camp. He made cedar shingles and I don't believe anyone could surpass his work. After school was out, that was May, 1936, my sister Clarabelle and I joined our parents at the lumber camp where we spent the summer packing shingles at the mill. I will always be grateful to have had the experience of learning how the singles were made and having spent that summer with our parents, as that was to be our last. My father was killed in an auto accident in February, 1937.
>
> That has been almost 40 years and I still miss him and think of him and the happy days we had growing up on the Mead farm."

Interestingly, the farm had actually been lost for non-payment of taxes in 1932, like many other farms. However, the state had allowed the occupants of most of these farms to continue to live on them rent free for life.

Most of Grandpa Mead's grandchildren never knew him. He died in the car accident in 1937, before most of us were born. Ironically, he was driving to visit his mother, Sarah, then in her 70's, who was in the hospital with a broken hip in New Buffalo. However, he is still very important to us, his grandchildren, and to our children, his great-grandchildren. We have inherited from him and Grandma Mead many of our attitudes about life and living.

Grandma and Grandpa Mead instilled in their children, and through them their grandchildren, several very valuable assets. One is a practical, common sense attitude toward living and the everyday occurrences of life. Another is the desire to be a useful, productive person who takes pride in his or her work and self. Certainly not least is a well developed sense of humor and love of music and card playing, which in combination produce parties enjoyed by all.

Alice's father had been a music master in church. She had early in life acquired a love of music which was passed to all her children. Grandma was always singing or humming songs to amuse herself and cheer up those around her. And if she wasn't singing, she was whistling.

Grandpa Mead was a tall, thin man, like Alton, but with a physical resemblance more like Roy. He had a very even temper and was rarely seen to display anger or express bad feelings toward someone else. He was a cool, calm type who didn't let much of anything fluster him. Although he didn't exhibit any musical talent, he always seemed to enjoy the singing and musical abilities of his children. He enjoyed excellent health and never used a doctor.

Grandpa Mead was a man people trusted and respected, wherever he went. He served as President of the school board at the Frost Township Community School and was the township treasurer of Frost Township in 1935 and 1936.

Grandpa Mead died before I was born, but I have many fond memories of Grandma Mead. She was wise (although sometimes stubborn), loving, had an insatiable appetite for fishing and card playing, and, much to the delight of her grandchildren, never took any guff from her children as long as she lived. She was a real matriarch. I'll never forget an argument she had with my Uncle Harold one time. She wanted him to drive her down to Detroit, but he didn't want to go. She let him know, in no uncertain terms, who was still boss even though Harold was in his fifties. They went. Knowing Uncle Harold, they were probably flying low in that old Ford all the way.

After the accident in which Grandpa Mead was killed, Grandma spent several months recuperating. She had been injured

in the crash and didn't recover from the physical and mental stress for some time.

Although Grandma was more tempermental than Grandpa Mead, she was about his equal in her ability to maintain her senses in tense circumstances. She and Bud, who was 13, hadn't returned to live on the farm after the accident, but stayed with various relatives, including George Mead, who lived in Detroit. She worked for him as a housekeeper. She returned to the farm in the spring of 1938 to get the remainder of her things from the house. She had gone out to the farm by herself. When she opened a closet door, a strange man was standing there. He said, "Don't be scared lady, I'm not going to hurt you." As it turned out, he had come in the house the night before to sleep - not expecting anyone to return before he left. According to Uncle Alton, Grandma remained calm and collected the whole time.

During the rest of the 30's and most of the 40's, Grandma lived in and around Harrison and also for awhile in Beaverton. She worked at a variety of jobs, but mostly worked in restaurants. She even ran her own restaurant for a short time. At one time in the late 40's she lived in the house across the road from her sister-in-law, Amber Burns. Apparently, during this time span, she bought and eventually sold several homes, each time making enough of a profit to help stretch her meagre income.

Although she like to spend her summers at her little house in Harrison, Grandma Mead spent most of the winters of her last twenty or so years visiting with her sons and daughters.

She would spend a few weeks at Roy's, then a couple weeks with James, then a few weeks at Clarabelle's; making the rounds. Despite all the mother-in-law stories we have all heard, she was always a welcome addition to any home. She helped with the cooking and housework and made the greatest sugar cookies ever - big, soft and yummy. Seldom using a cookbook or recipes, she cooked or baked from memory. She was a formidable opponent on the opposite side of a cribbage board and could hold her own with any of her card-loving children in a game of euchre or pinnochle. To top it off, she was the only grandmother I knew of who was an avid fisherman. How many Grandmas do you know that will pin a wriggling worm on a hook? or sit for hours watching a bobber in hopes of a big pike coming along?

Grandma Mead died February 14, 1970. She is buried at the Maple Grove Cemetery in Harrison next to Grandpa Harry Mead. Even though she was pretty sick the last year of her life, she was plucky and good-humored to the end. We all miss her.

Harry and Alice Mead had nine children, beginning with Harold in 1903 and ending with Bud (Forrest) in 1924 - seven sons and two daughters. Their children have remained very close to and supportive of each other all their lives. Their mutual love and respect, interrupted by occasional spats, has had a significant and beneficial influence on the grandchildren, my generation.

Harold G. - Feb. 17, 1903 - Dec. 24, 1966

Henry Alton - Sept. 27, 1905

LeRoy - May 19, 1907

Dee H. - June 30, 1911

Max C. - June,1913

James Lewis - Nov. 16, 1915

Clarabelle - Dec. 21, 1917

Velma C. - May 2, 1922

Forrest Erwin - May 9, 1924

Generation Eleven

The eleventh generation includes my father and aunts and uncles. It is the generation I grew up amongst and feel that I know the best. The following section is an attempt to give some insight into the lives and personalities of each of the members of this generation. I sincerely regret the lack of an opportunity to talk at length with all of them and also regret my very inadequate memory, which makes it difficult to illustrate with any precision these very special people. I know that my generation feels proud and fortunate to have grown up a part of the Mead clan.

The eleventh generation were certainly not saints. They had, and have, the same failings that we all share to one degree or another; stubborn as a Missouri mule on occasion,

exhibiting a fiery temper or a cold, angry, silence at times, or irritatingly ornery and cantankerous once in awhile. But differences of opinion were always settled or forgotten, human frailties forgiven and serious inter-family disagreements always faded into the past, giving way to strong underlying family ties and the mutual love and concern they shared. This generation did not frequently openly exhibit or express their feelings for one another. However, in looking back now, I realize that there was, and is, a very strong attachment beneath the subdued exterior. It was a bond we (my generation) could sense was there, but simply took for granted without realizing how it would influence us in our lives.

Harold G.

Harold was born Feb. 7, 1903 at Jonesville, a small community (which has since disappeared) located on the High Banks of the Muskegon River near the joining of Townline Creek. He lived the nomadic life of his parents, moving frequently from place to place, but still managed to complete the 8th grade at age 12. The family was living in Moddersville at that time - 1915. He worked for his father and grandfather as well as picking up odd jobs until 1923 when he married Anna Wright and left to work full-time at the Fowler Orchard between Clare and Harrison. In 1924, Harold joined the throng of country boys who discovered, or decided, that the small farms and mill towns of northern and central Michigan offered scant hope of permanent, secure employment. They headed for the cities, mostly Detroit, by the thousands, only to find on arrival that they glutted the job market and employment was still difficult to obtain. Harold and Ann spent five years in Detroit with Harold working mostly at the Studebaker assembly plant, but also as a milkman and a coffeeman. In 1927, he had been seriously injured in a hunting accident which resulted in the loss of an eye.

In 1929 Harold and Ann returned to Clare County to live near the Mead farm. He worked for the WPA. In 1931 they moved to Moddersville to try farming. After two years, they decided it wasn't possible to make a go of it on a small farm

and returned to Detroit. Harold got a job in a tool and die shop, which proved to be the trade he worked in the rest of his life.

By 1936 they had saved enough money to buy another farm in Merritt, Michigan, just west of Houghton Lake. Their seventh child, Sara, had been born the year before, and the farm would be a more wholesome place to raise the family. It would be a restful haven to return to during the frequent lay-offs which were common in the tool and die business. From that time on, Ann and the family stayed in Merritt while Harold worked in Detroit in a long list of shops. He died Dec. 24, 1966 at the age of 63.

Although Harold could easily hold his own with his brothers when it came to being ornery and stubborn, he was a man greatly respected and loved by his family and many friends. He had a lust for the good life; which to him meant a good rabbit hound (or two), a straight-shooting deer rifle (or two), a couple well-oiled fishing reels and rods (with the necessary accessories), his violin and a few (or lot) of friends to join him in his hunting, fishing, musical or partying activities. He had a devastating sense of humor and sometimes a quick temper. There was the time he and Roy went fishing and the outboard motor just wouldn't run, despite endless cranking, fiddling with the adjustments, checking the gas lines and spark plugs, and everything else they could think of. Finally Harold said to Roy, "How much did you pay for this blankety-

blank motor?" When Roy told him $14.00, he reached in his back pocket for his wallet, counted out $14.00 and gave the money to Roy. He then turned around, unhooked the motor, threw it in the lake and rowed back to shore.

Harold was an avid hunter and fisherman all his life and even did a little commercial fishing for perch for a while, several years before he died. When things were slow in the shops in Detroit, he and Ann would go up to their cabin at St. Martins Point during the summer. Their's was one of the first cabins built on the Point.

He loved his violin and, despite having had only eight violin lessons many years before in Beaverton, he played a pretty good country fiddle. Often he, his brother Jim on the guitar or banjo and his brother-in-law Dave Harper on the piano, would play late into the night to the delight of family and friends.

Harold is buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery in Harrison. Ann still lives on the farm in Merritt, where she loves to bring out the old family pictures to reminisce with visitors and talk about her latest great-grandchild.

Henry Alton

Alton was born September 27, 1905 in Hermansville, Michigan, a logging town in the upper peninsula of Michigan which lies mid-way between Iron Mountain and Escanaba. Children grew up fast in those days and Alton left home to find work

at the age of fourteen, in 1919. His first job was as a laborer for the Transport Truck Co. in Mt. Pleasant. However, he soon rejoined the family on the Jackson Farm, where they were living at the time. He then worked at odd jobs, including driving a team on a state road crew which was building old Highway 27, driving a Model-T truck, and working for awhile at a foundry and roofing company in Saginaw.

In the spring of 1924 he went to Detroit with his brother Harold looking for work. They were both dead broke, but managed to get free meals and rent until their first pay came in. Like Harold, Alton took work where he could find it. This included working at the Timpkin-Detroit Axle plant, the Studebaker assembly plant (with Harold) and working as a milkman with the Highland Park Creamery (also like Harold). At one point he went to Grand Rapids for eight months to work on a road crew. His father, Harry, and brother, Roy, were also working on the road crew. He then returned to Detroit and got a job at Cadillac Motor Car. Several years later he was lured to the Chrysler plant by a former supervisor from Cadillac and he worked there until 1941. He then worked in a tool and die shop until 1943 when he returned to Harrison to operate the Texaco bulk gasoline and fuel oil dealership.

During his years in Detroit Alton had married and been divorced from Lucille Scott. In 1946 he married Emma (Peggy) Johnson Muldenhauer.

In 1947, at the age of 31, Alton tried to join the army to go to Hawaii, but they were all filled up with WW II veterans

and still trying to reduce the size of the army. He then grasped an opportunity to acquire half interest in a large block of land in the upper peninsula of Michigan. Although somewhat short on capital, Alton had become over the years a jack-of-all-trades, and his investment in the property was to be his ability to build roads and oversee the development of the property. So, with Peggy somewhat reluctantly in tow, he headed north to St. Martin's Point, a scenic peninsula that juts out into Lake Huron across the bay from St. Ignace and Mackinac Island.

For the first five years Alton worked from mid-spring to late-fall at St. Martin's Point. There were roads to build, timber to harvest and surveying work to be accomplished. From 1948-51 he operated a sawmill on the property which turned out cedar cabin-logs, railroad ties and lumber. During the winter he and Peggy returned to Detroit to work and build up their bank account. Not much could be accomplished at the Point during the winter.

Finally, on June 25, 1954, seven years after entering the agreement with Ben Carpenter, Alton and Peggy acquired title to half interest in the property. Roads had been constructed, cabin lots surveyed (with a few sold already) and the Point had become their permanent home.

Over the next ten years Alton spent the summers building cabins, drilling water wells, building driveways and doing 1001 other jobs for the people, mostly relatives or personal

friends, who were buying lots in the St. Martin's Point Subdivision or the Stony Point Subdivision, a second offering of lots that continued north along the west side of the point. In the winters he worked as an equipment operator at the Kinross Air Base, near the Soo.

In 1964 Peggy and Alton decided that they had worked hard enough and long enough to begin to take life a little easier. They bought the Dome restaurant - a hamburger, french fries and coke-type establishment - in Harrison. It proved to be a little more involved and a lot more work than they had expected. About a million hamburgers later (at least, it seemed that many), in 1967, they quit the restaurant business and returned to the relative quiet and relaxing atmosphere of the Point. For the last several years Alton has been associated with the Marlette Company as a sales representative for mobile and modular homes. He maintains an office on the highway near Hessel.

As long as I can remember, and this can be substantiated by anyone who knows him, Alton has been one of the hardest working, most well-liked and respected men I have known. He always felt the work day lasted from sun-up to sun-down, and on a regular basis would return to the job he was currently working on after he ate supper. He knew how people always wanted their cabins built, wells drilled or roads constructed as soon as possible, if not sooner, and did his best to see that they wouldn't be disappointed. It's for sure they were

seldom disappointed in the cost of any work Alton did for them, because he usually agreed, or even suggested, to work at rates below what he should have been paid. On top of that, he was always conservative when it came to adding up his hours and submitting bills.

The home of Alton and Peggy is about as close as you can get to being a public institution without being one. There has always been a constant flow of people all day and into the night. It has been a ritual that everyone who came to the Point practised religiously - stopping in to see Alton and Peg. They stop to ask about problems associated with their cabins and properties, to ask about mutual friends and to enjoy the companionship of Alton and/or Peggy over a cup of coffee or bottle of beer and maybe a euchre or poker game. How all of them were treated in such a courteous and friendly manner, even though the visitors were not always in the best humor, and not infrequently loaded to the gills, is a mystery to me and a testimonial to Alton and Peggy's patience, understanding and true affection for their friends. Even when they are feeling under-the-weather or cranky or just desirous of a few hours of quiet, visitors are seldom aware they have come at an inconvenient time.

The fact that every one of Alton's brothers and sisters (except Max) bought or built cabins at the Point is an indication of the closeness they all felt for Alton and each other.

LeRoy

Roy was born May 19, 1907 on the west side of Long Lake. His childhood was much the same as his brothers before and after him, moving around a lot and getting by on the family's sparse income. Like his brothers, he too left home at an early age to find work in Detroit at the Studebaker plant. In fact, Roy was the first to head for the city, as he arrived in Detroit in 1922, about a year before Harold and Alton.

Roy worked at Studebaker for two years and then worked at various places as a toolmaker. This highly skilled trade was to be his profession most of the rest of his working career. However, he made a surprising decision which interrupted his career in toolmaking. He returned north to live with his family and re-entered high school to finish his education. He graduated from Beaverton High School in 1928 at the age of 21, the vice-president of his graduating class. It was a proud day for Roy, his parents and family.

In 1929 Roy married Isabel Rose. The next year they returned to Detroit. Jeannie was born in 1930 and Joanie in 1933. Though it was the bottom of the depression, Roy was lucky and industrious enough to find work, although the jobs never lasted long and he had to constantly move around from shop to shop. He finally landed a job as a toolmaker at the Chrysler plant in 1935, where he would work for the next eleven years.

After WW II, like his brothers, Roy was looking for a change. He also left Detroit, in 1946, and moved back north to Harrison where he went into the water well drilling business. There was a lot of building activity for a few years following the war and everyone needed a well. However, by 1950 the building boom had ended and there wasn't much work for a well-driller, so Roy and Isabel packed up and moved back to Detroit. Roy returned to Chrysler as a toolmaker. The next 15 years were relatively uneventful, but would have been even less so except for the unexpected arrival of Jimmy in 1952. He added a lot of zing along with the normal problems of raising a child and teenager during the 50's and 60's.

Roy retired in 1965. He and Isabel were looking forward to a peaceful retirement and Roy was going to go back into the water well business on a part-time basis in the St. Martin's Point area. Unfortunately he was seriously stricken with a reaction to medicine he was using (cortizone, I believe). The illness has left him physically disabled, but it is remarkable that he is still around. He is one of a very few individuals who have survived this particular illness. In fact, during the last years, he has continued to make a much better recovery than his doctors had predicted.

Roy has always been a lot like his brother, Harold. Both liked hunting, fishing and good rousing, musical parties and card games. Both had quick tempers, although Roy would usually

cool down a little faster. Roy is also a little more impetuous and often did or didn't do things on the spur of the moment. After deciding to go north for the weekend, he might change his mind several times before the weekend came. Friends and relatives learned to expect him when he showed up.

Pete Mead (Harold's son) tells about the time he was up at the Point when Roy was there during deer season. (The deer season at the Point in those years was substantially longer than the "official" season proclaimed by the Conservation Dept.) Roy hadn't had any luck hunting that day but had "shot" down most of the contents of a bourbon bottle. He wanted to go out hunting again even though the light was getting a little dim (It was 9:00 and the sun had set at 7:30). So he grabbed his 30-30 and a pistol and he and Pete jumped in the car and headed back through the woods in the general direction of the Indian camp on the other side of the Point. Along the way they saw a rabbit along side the road. Roy took careful aim and fired (six times) but when the pistol was empty and the rabbit was still sitting there, he declared, "must be a stick", and on they went. When they arrived at the tar-paper shack where the Indians were living, Roy said to Pete, "Let's see if they're red all over.", and proceeded to shine the car lights in the windows and honk the horn. However, when the door opened to reveal a highly perturbed Indian, the twosome beat a hasty retreat back across the Point.

Roy has always had a strong interest in the history of the Meads and the history of the Central Michigan area. He is the one who discovered the gravesite of Lewis Mead near New Hudson. But he only speculated that Lewis was a relative and didn't know until quite recently that Lewis was indeed his great-great grandfather. In a recent discussion of Meads living in the Central Michigan area during the late 1800's, it was decided that a lady-of-the-night named Kit Mead, who worked in one of the logging towns, was not a close relative. Who else but Roy would have said, "If I had been born a girl, there would have been two".

Roy and Isabel now live in Harrison in a house that Grandma Mead built many years ago. He is still working to overcome his physical disabilities and also likes to try to beat the pants off anyone who will stop to play a game of euchre or cribbage. Of course, he has to move pretty fast to beat Isabel to the cards when some willing card player comes knocking at the door.

Dee Harry

Dee was born at Leota, a small community in northern Clare County (which has also mostly disappeared), in 1911. His younger years were spent much the same as his brothers, although he didn't leave the family at such a tender age. Like all his brothers before him, he also spent some time as a milkman, although he worked for the Fairmont Creamery.

He also worked as a salesman for the Lakeside Biscuit Company before joining the Sunshine Biscuit Company as a salesman in 1935. By this time he was a family man with a baby at home and thinking more seriously about a permanent occupation. He found it with the Sunshine Biscuit Co., and spent the next 38 years selling cookies and crackers in and around the Detroit and Lower Michigan area. When he retired (the first time) in 1973, he was an Area Sales Manager responsible for sales, distribution and promotion in a six state area.

Dee, Margaret (Pat), Marilyn and Margi spent most of the next 20 years living in Royal Oak on Catalpa Drive, a quiet residential neighborhood. A well-respected and liked family in their church and neighborhood, guests in their home were numerous. Frequently the guests were Dee's brothers or sisters and their families.

Dee is a lot like his brothers in many ways; a good sense of humor, loves parties and has a bit of a temper which flares up on occasion; but he has always been basically a little more serious than the rest - more concerned with stability and security for himself and his family. Family members often kidded him for his frugal habits. One story he will never be allowed to forget is about the time he decided his gas sidewalk lamp was using too much gas and wasting money. After fiddling with it for a few minutes, the lamp went out and he couldn't get it started again. It took a costly serviceman from the gas company to get it working.

Dee has always been a talker, a man with a glib tongue and master of the art of persuasion. These abilities were evident long before he became a salesman by occupation. At the bottom of the depression, in 1931, he went out west looking for work. In Missoula, Montana he entered the office of the personnel officer for the U.S. Forest Service to ask about a job. He told the man that he was going to go to college the next fall to study forestry and needed a summer job to help pay for it. His fast talking and convincing manner got him a job on a blister rust crew, whose job was pulling up gooseberry and currant bushes in an attempt to halt the spread of a tree disease. After several long, hot and back-straining weeks of pulling gooseberries and some work fighting forest fires, Dee packed up and headed home with a few dollars in his wallet and a lot of blisters on his hands. He had talked his way into more work than he figured.

Dee has always been a favorite visitor from the standpoint of his nieces and nephews, because he always had several boxes of samples in his car trunk. Kids could almost always talk him out of a box of Chees-its, animal crackers, Hydrox, raisin cookies or whatever he had at the time.

Pat died in 1956 of cancer. It was a shock to the family to lose their relatively young mother and wife. Several years after she died, Dee was fortunate to meet and marry Josephine (Jo) Lewandowski, a very personable widow from Detroit. Dee and Jo lived in Southfield until July, 1976, when they moved to an apartment in Rochester. It just happens to be near where Margi and the grandchildren live. They enjoy spending an occasional weekend or week at their cabin at St. Martin's Point.

Max C.

Max was born in Moddersville in 1913. He has a chromosome deficiency which causes the type of mental retardation called Mongoloidism. Although Max's mental abilities never developed much beyond that of a three or four year old, he was kept at home until he was 34 years old. He occasionally stayed with other members of the family for various periods of time.

Like most mongoloid children, Max was gentle, well-behaved and affectionate. He could dress and feed himself and do simple chores, like carrying water or sweeping the floor. In fact, in many ways, he was probably easier to care for than a "normal" child.

It was finally decided by his mother, brothers and sisters that Max would probably be better off at one of the state-run homes for the mentally retarded. In 1947 he was placed in the State Home and Training School at Lapeer, Michigan. He always seemed to be very happy there. Anytime he was taken out to visit someone, he was always anxious to get back to his friends and familiar surroundings. Max was transferred to the Center for Human Development in Mount Pleasant in 1960 (another state-operated home for the mentally retarded). He still lives there.

There were several things Max loved; children (although they began to make him a little nervous when he got into his forties), a rocking chair and his harmonica. He was able to play crude tunes, although it was obvious that, to him, his music was delightful.

At the amazing age of 63 (amazing for a mongoloid, as they very seldom live to this age) he is described as "a nice little old man". Unfortunately, he no longer recognizes the brothers or sisters who visited him on a regular basis for the past thirty years.

James Lewis

James was born in Moddersville in 1915, the sixth son of Harry and Alice. He grew up in a series of small towns, including Beaverton, Lake City, Dale and a small farm on the east side of Frost Township. The family moved back permanently to the Mead farm in 1929, where James spent his high school years. He graduated from the Harrison High School in 1933.

There was little money and few jobs available in 1933, so James joined the CCC's (Civilian Conservation Corps) and served in several camps as a cook for 26 months.

During this period he joined with two other corpsmen to form a trio called The Three C's. The name wasn't very original, but the group was good enough to have a regular half hour program on a local radio station, CJIC. They also performed at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

By the fall of 1935, James had saved enough money from his slim earnings to begin his college education. He enrolled at Michigan State College. After making it successfully through the first year, he found himself in a condition which he shared with many others; he was broke. He spent two more years working in the Harrison area saving money to return to college.

He served with the CCC's again for awhile, worked on a road crew, pumped gas at a gas station and worked in an appliance store. He spent the summer of 1937 as an assistant electrician aboard the Eastern States, a passenger boat which travelled between Chicago and Detroit. Interestingly, during the same summer, Roy was also an assistant electrician on a sister ship, the Western States.

In the fall of 1938, James returned to school at Wayne State University in Detroit. After another year of full-time study, he once again returned to full-time work, but managed to continue his schooling on a part-time basis. In the fall of 1940, he married Donna Belle Davis, a hometown girl from Harrison. They continued to live in Detroit where James worked the midnight shift at Chrysler's Jefferson plant while continuing part-time at Wayne. Finally, in 1943, eight years after he had started, he was awarded his Bachelor of Arts degree with an Education Certificate.

The couple, with their first baby, Douglas, returned to Harrison, where James accepted a teaching position at the high school. There he taught English, speech, history, physical education classes and coached the basketball and baseball teams. The basketball team in particular was very successful.

In 1948, James accepted a teaching position at the Royal Oak High School. The family lived in Big Beaver (now part of Troy) and near Walled Lake before actually moving to Royal Oak in 1951. Teaching jobs in those days were reasonably secure

but not very financially rewarding, so he found it necessary to find a job during the summers and part-time work during the school year. He spent several summers working in the oil fields as a utilityman in the Higgins Lake area. This was a good chance for all the family to get in a lot of fishing and swimming. He also worked the late shift at Chrysler again and then for several years as a part-time real estate salesman.

While at Royal Oak High School, he taught English and speech, directed plays, coached the debate team and was the founder of WOAK, the high school's radio station. It was one of the first high school radio stations in the United States. He was manager of the radio station until 1964, when he accepted a position as Assistant Professor in Speech and Dramatic Arts at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. In 1965, after eight years of attending Wayne State University's night and summer schools, he was awarded a doctoral degree in education and became Dr. James Mead. His masters degree had come in 1957, after a similar period of part-time study.

James is now an Associate Professor at Central Michigan University and planning for retirement in a couple of years. Donna has been working in a gift shop at the Post Pharmacy for quite a few years. The only "child" still at home is Tibbit, a part chihuahua, who does his best to absorb their affection and attention now that the four kids are scattered to the winds. Doug is in Canada, Steve in North Carolina and John in Florida, with only Carole relatively close, near Charlevoix, Michigan.

Jim to his many friends and Uncle Jim to his many nieces and nephews, by blood or marriage, is a very popular and respected man. He has an easy-going, good-humored way of relating to people and gets along well with everyone. His excellent sense of humor, love of card playing and musical abilities make him a natural hit at Mead, or non-family gatherings, large and small. He plays the piano, organ, guitar, ukelele and banjo - all self-taught.

His temperament is much like his brothers, except that his temper is more under control. He always said "If you don't have something good to say, then don't say anything". In this respect, he is like his father and his brother, Alton. Not easily upset or disturbed, he tends to remain calm and cool in the most trying of circumstances. Despite his hard-earned status and success in the academic world, he is modest and unassuming. Bill Harper put it succinctly when he described Uncle Jim as "a real winner".

He has been constructing and reconstructing a cabin at the Point over the past dozen years, adding a bit of refinement each year. It will be their retirement home in a couple of years, assuming it survives the annual Cousins' weekends and numerous other gala events. There are enough odds and ends to last quite a while, especially for a long-time addict to doing-it-yourself.

Clarabelle

Clarabelle was born Dec. 21, 1917 in Moddersville, the first girl in the family after six boys. A bright, friendly and outgoing girl, she moved quickly through the elementary grades and entered the high school in Harrison at the age of 12. Because the farm was too far away to commute to school, she stayed in town during the week, working for her room and board by helping with housework and cooking. She stayed with Aunt Amber a couple of years. After cheerleading and acting in the "senior" plays for four years, she graduated in 1934 at the age of 16, the youngest student ever to graduate from the school.

The following fall found Clarabelle at County Normal, a teachers college in Gladwin. After one year of schooling, she received a teaching certificate and that fall, at age 18, became the teacher at Frost Township School No. 4. There were eleven children in the school that year. The next year, 1937, the Frost Township schools were consolidated into the Frost Community School and Clarabelle was selected as the teacher. The number of students more than doubled. However, a salary increase, which recognized the added responsibilities, helped make the added workload tolerable.

During the summers Clarabelle and several of her teaching friends would attend summer school at Northern Michigan College in Marquette. She acquired the equivalent of another year of schooling during these summers.

After teaching at the Frost Community School for three years, Clarabelle was lured to the school at Temple by free lunches, a break each day to relax briefly in quiet, and a salary increase. It also was probably more convenient, as Clarabelle had married David Harper the previous spring and he was working in the Temple area also.

Clarabelle's full-time teaching career ended in 1943 with the birth of her son, William. They moved to the Harrison area and she then substituted in the Harrison schools for 18 years. In 1961, she became the first full-time secretary at the elementary school. In 1969 she returned to substituting and teaching reading improvement courses at the elementary school.

During most of the years in Harrison, David worked in the oil fields between Harrison and Higgins Lake for the Sun Oil Company. During the mid-sixties, he left Sun Oil and entered the real estate business in Harrison.

After living for several years near the Harrison Airport, they moved to town, across from the high school, into the old Harper family home.

David died of cancer on January 17, 1970. His death was a great loss to all of the Meads. Clarabelle's brothers and sister had all known David for many years, even before she and David were married, and he was more like a brother than a brother-in-law.

Clarabelle is a vivacious and warm person who is greatly admired by all. She is full of interest, enthusiasm, patience and good spirits and is more outgoing and openly expressive than her brothers. A sincere interest in others has always kept her involved in community and church activities.

In June of 1972, Clarabelle married Edwin Brockett, a widower. They reside in Harrison, mostly, but greatly enjoy spending time at their cabin at St. Martin's Point.

Velma Kathryn

Velma was born at the Mead farm on May 2, 1922. The farm was still owned and operated by her grandfather Lewis Mead at that time. The stay at the Mead farm ended in 1923 when the family moved to Lake City, then back to Moddersville and finally to Beaverton, where Velma attended Kindergarten. The next year the family moved back to the Mead farm in Frost Township. After more than two decades of nomadic living, they finally settled down.

Velma grew up on the farm, attending the Frost Township schools until the 8th grade, when she went to Detroit to live with her brother Alton over the winter. Her mother had gone with her father to a logging camp and her older sister, Clarabelle, was staying with their Aunt Amber in Harrison. Velma returned from Detroit to Harrison before the end of the school year and also lived with Aunt Amber until the summer. Clarabelle acted as her teacher and Velma received her 8th grade diploma.

After her father died in 1937, the family moved to Harrison where Velma attended the Harrison High School until she married Kenneth Coulter in September of 1939. Although she didn't finish high school at that time, Velma did acquire her high school diploma some years later by attending night school and taking other special courses.

Velma and Kenny lived briefly in Harrison, then moved to Detroit shortly before WW II. At this time almost the entire family was living in Detroit. In 1943, shortly before Kenny joined the army, they moved back north to Beaverton. During the remainder of the war, Velma and the two children, Judy and Kenneth (Buddy), lived in Harrison.

In 1948 the family moved to the west side of Higgins Lake. Kenny was working for the Sun Oil Co. After several years, they moved into Roscommon. All three children attended and graduated from the Roscommon schools. In the early years after moving into Roscommon, much of the summer was spent at the State Park on the north shore of Higgins Lake. The kids would swim, water ski and do the things that kids do. Kenny would spend hour after hour trolling for those elusive lake trout. One time he got into a boat race and almost flipped the boat over backwards when he tried to start too fast. He quickly recovered, however, and went on to win the race, much to the delight of the partisan crowd on the shore.

Velma worked part-time for many years as an assistant to one of the doctors in Roscommon. She had no formal medical training, so the doctor trained her himself. Between the

doctor and on-the-job experience acquired over nineteen years, she became quite knowledgeable in routine and emergency medical care.

Kenny retired from the Production Division of Sun Oil Co. in 1969. A couple of years later they moved to Florida where the milder climate and easier pace of living is better for their health. Kenny had had a heart attack and Velma has a circulatory problem that was aggravated by the cold winters. They now reside in Ormand Beach. The weather is more pleasant, but Velma hasn't slowed down much. In addition to studying Spanish and watching after Kenny and their overweight samoyed dog, she spends a lot of time working with elderly people in the area.

Velma is probably the quietest one of her family, except perhaps for Alton. She shares with them a well-developed sense of humor, an appreciation of music and a love of family gatherings. However, she is more likely to join the singing than lead it and appreciate the jokes and witticisms of others than contribute her own. She has always had a strong sense of "family" and that is what she misses most in Florida - the opportunity to visit frequently with her children, brothers and sister and other family.

Forrest (Bud) Erwin

Bud, the last child in the family, was born in Lake City on May 9, 1924. Although he was the ninth child, only the last six were still at home. Alton, Harold and Roy had all

left to find work. Like Velma, Bud grew up on the Mead farm and attended the Frost Township school. After his father died, Bud moved around with his mother as she found work in various places - mostly in Harrison or nearby towns. Bud left high school to join the Air Force during WW II.

After the war he decided to stay in the Air Force and make a career of it. He had become a pilot and commissioned an officer during the war. The security of an Air Force career as an officer must have been an easy choice to make, after growing up during the depression in a family that was happy, but seldom had two nickels to rub together.

Bud stayed in the Air Force for over 25 years, finally "retiring" in 1968 as a Lieutenant Colonel. He and the family had seen a lot of the world during those years. He had overseas duty several times, including several years in Japan. After leaving the Air Force, Bud, Barb and their Air Force "brats" returned to Michigan and settled down in Marlette. Bud had accepted a position as company pilot for Marlette Corporation - a builder of mobile and modular homes. They still reside in Marlette. With only a couple of the children still at home, Barb has more time to paint (she's an accomplished artist) and Bud has more time to explore for interesting business deals and floating euchre games.

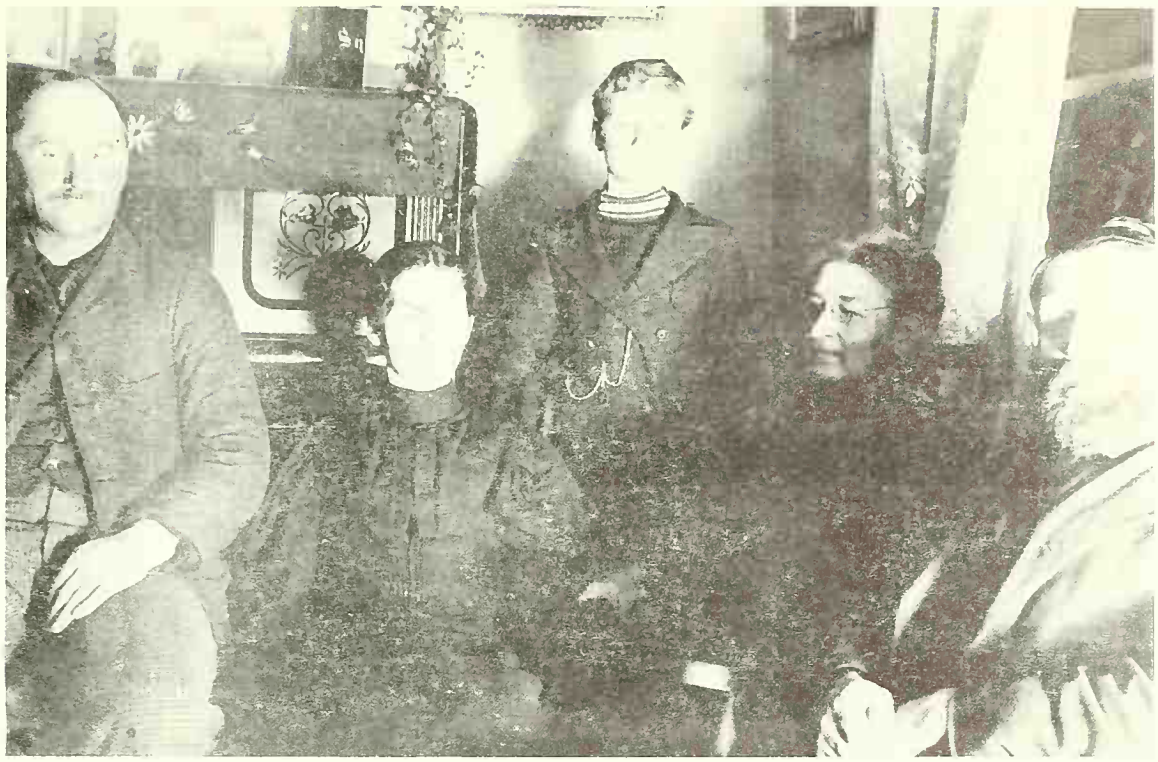
Bud has always been a character. He loves parties - especially card parties, singing and dancing, Canadian whiskey,

horseshoe pitching, tall tales and shrewd business transactions where he thinks he can make a buck. It's been rumored that he is the one who talked Hoyle into changing the rules of euchre to make stealing the deal legal (although not necessarily moral).

Bud feels a strong camaraderie with his nieces and nephews, especially since a few of them are about his age. For the past several years he has found convenient excuses for being at the Point when they were engaged in the annual rites known as Cousins' Weekend. One year he was "baptized" by the cousins and proclaimed an honorary, temporary cousin (much to the chagrin of several of his own generation).

Bud is an enigma - a guy who is often discussed and sometimes cussed, but always loved by his kin.

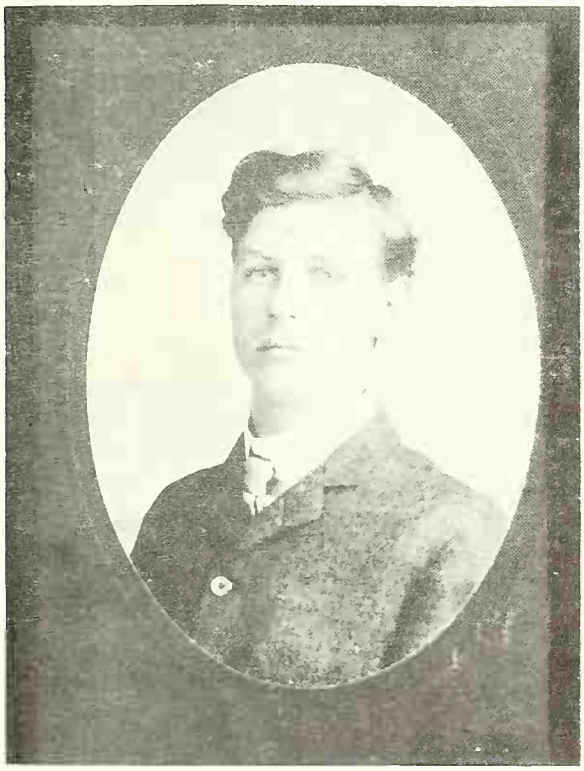
"Keep shuffling and somebody pass me a bottle of Strawberry Hill."



Lewis Mead, Sarah Mead, Harry Mead, Thursa Mead, Shelley and Life Shelley. About 1895.

Lewis and Sarah Mead, Amber Marie (in arms), Clara (standing), Harry (foreground) and two friends. About 1898. Mill pond with remains of pine forest in the background.

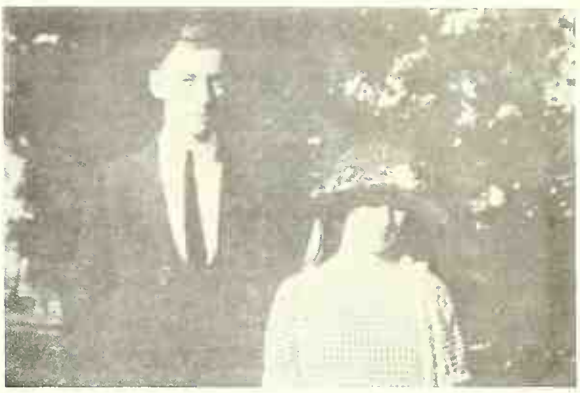
Alice Mead and Harold, 1905.



Harry Mead. About 18 years old.

Sarah Mead. About age 70.

Harold. About age 18.



Alton and Ann on Harold and Ann's wedding day.

Roy on graduation from Beaverton High School - 1928.

James on graduation from Harrison High School - 1933.

Velma and Bud at the Shingle mill near Kalkajka - 1937.

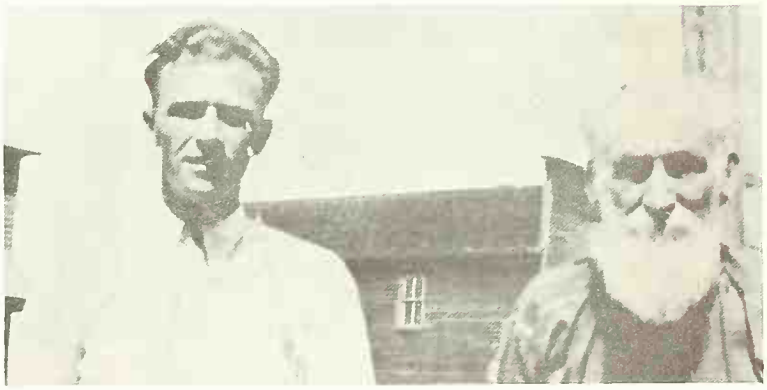
Max and Dee. About 1915.

David and Clarabelle (Mead) Harper - the newly weds. 1939.

Bud takes a picture of himself during basic training. April, 1943.

The Harold Mead family about 1942. Jack, Pete, Bob, Peggy, Sara (front), Ann, Thelma Jay, Harold and Gene.

James strums the guitar for "The Three C's" at Camp Kenneth and over CJIC.



Leroy and Grandpa Norman.

Alice Mead - about age 65.

Alice Mead - about age 75.

The "Mead nose" isn't all Mead. Aunt Molly Malcomnson, Aunt Lil Reynolds, Aunt Bessie Carpenter, Uncle Arch Norman, Uncle Hank Norman and Grandma Alice Mead. About 1965.

Part of the eleventh generation; Kathryn Mary Mead, Steven Mead, Karen Harper, Judy Coulter, Carole Mead, Buddy Coulter, Dickie Coulter, Billy Harper and Doug Mead. About 1950.

Looks like Betty and Joanie just got euchred by Bill and Doug.

Ann, Harold, Isabel, Bob Malcomnson, Roy and Jeanie with friends. About 1965.

Alton, Peggy, Dee and Jo Mead. 1976.

The Mead family at the farm in 1938. Every weekend was a family reunion.

The "Cousins" on their 1975 pilgrimage to the Point for a weekend of gaiety, frivolity and nonsense. Back row: "Butch" Giles, Mary Jo Harper BeDour, Carole Mead Giles, Jeanie Mead Ellison, Ray Ellison, Bill Harper, Jack Mead, Roger Redfern. Middle row: Judy Haroutunian Mead, Montie Schnieder Harper, Karen Harper Durbin, Ronnie Arleth Coulter, Doug Mead. Kneeling: "Chub" Campbell Mead, Betty Bedwell Mead. Sitting: Joanie Mead Redfern, Dick Coulter, Paul Durbin, "Pete" Mead. Under the porch: Uncle Bud Mead.

The Mead Generations

Generation One

* 1. William (1600 - 1663)
2. Gabriel
3. Richard
4. John

Generation Two

1. Joseph (1630 - 1690)
2. Martha (1632 - ?)
* 3. John (1634 - 1699) m. Hannah Potter

Generation Three

1. John (1658 - 1693) m. Ruth Hardy
2. Joseph (1660 - 1725)
3. Hannah (1661 - 1699)
4. Ebenezer (1663 - 1728)
* 5. Jonathan (1665 - 1727) m. Martha Finch
6. David (1665 - 1726)
7. Benjamin (1667 - 1746) m. Sarah Waterbury and Rachael Brown
8. Nathaniel (1669 - 1703)
9. Samuel (1673 - 1713)
10. Abigail (no record)
11. Mary Elizabeth (no record)
12. Susannah (no record)

Generation Four

1. Jonathan (1689 - ?)
2. Sarah (1691 - ?) m. Jonathan Waterbury
3. Martha (1693 - ?) m. Stephen Holmes
4. James (1696 - 1729) m. Susannah Husted
5. Isaac (1698 - ?)
* 6. Timothy (1701 - ?) m. Martha Weeks and Sarah Bouton
7. Mary (1704 - ?)

* Direct line of descent

Generation Five

* 1. Timothy (1724 - 1800) m. Phebe Palmer
2. Martha (1726 - ?)
3. Zebulon (1728 - 1797) m. Anna Thompson and Mercy Cary
4. James (Col.) (1730 - 1805) m. Mercy Holmes
5. Stephen (1734 - ?) m. Polly White
6. Ezra (1737 - ?) m. Tryphena Burton

Generation Six

1. Phillip (1753 - ?) m. Susannah Griffen
* 2. Timothy (1755 - 1828) m. Phebe Griffen
3. Truman (1760 - 1830) m. Eunice Washburne
4. Jacob (no record) m. Chloe Benedict
5. William (no record)
6. Rachel (no record) m. Josiah Gale
7. Phebe (no record) m. Noah Gale
8. Tamson (no record) m. John Austin
9. Zillah (no record) m. Joseph Curtis
10. Elthea (no record) m. Edmund Wood
11. Elizabeth (no record) m. L. Cooley
12. Israel (1775 - 1854) m. Betsy Curtis

Generation Seven

1. Jared (died in infancy)
2. Jabesh (1776 - 1796)
3. Amos (1778 - 1865) m. Electa Pettibone
4. Jared (died in infancy)
* 5. Lewis (1782 - 1862) m. Abigail Waite
6. Rachel (1784 - 1857) m. Dyer Waite
7. Laura (1786 - 1854) m. Lemuel Chipman
8. Fanny (1788 - 1874) m. Levi Watson
9. Samuel (1790 - 1837) m. Lemira Dean
10. Sally (1792 - ?) m. Alason Bush and Lyman Giddings
11. Delia (1794 - 1842) m. Samuel Henderson and John Van Riper

Generation Eight

1. Jabesh (1808 - ?) m. Caroline Curtis
* 2. Er W. (1811 - ?) m. Rachel Marlatt and Harriet N. Bullock
3. Sabrina E. (1816 - ?) m. Jarvis Gage
4. Sarah A. (1819 - ?) m. William W. Henderson
5. Dyer W. (1822 - ?)
6. Lafayette (1824 - ?) m. Sarah A. Forbes. Grand Rapids, Mich.
7. Fanny (1828 - ?) m. James Page

Generation Nine

1. Abigail (1840 - died young)
2. Almeda J. (1841 - died young)
3. Thirza A. (1843 - ?) Lived at Cedar Lake, Michigan
4. Henry O. (1845 - ?) Lived in Minnesota
5. George W. (1847 - ?) Lived in Detroit, Mich.
6. William (1849 - died young)
* 7. Lewis Timothy (1851 - 1923) m. Sarah U. Fournie
8. Sophia N. (1854 - ?)
9. Charles W. (1855 - ?)
10. Alice H. (1857 - ?) Lived in Lafayette, Mich.
11. Lovila P. (1860 - ?)
12. Ervin (1862 - died young)
13. Laura E. (1866 - ?)

Generation Ten

1. Charles L. (1880 - ?) m. Jennie Beedy. Lansing, Michigan
* 2. Harry (1885 - Feb. 27, 1937) m. Alice Virginia Norman
3. Lee (1888) m. Emma Fleck. Pendleton, Oregon
4. Clara (1894 - April, 1972) m. Lawrence Bartlett, Otto Nicol, Theron Crane.
5. Amber Marie (1895) m. Robert Burns. Harrison, Michigan

Generation Eleven

1. Harold G. (Feb. 17, 1903 - Dec. 24, 1966) m. Anna M. Wright
2. Henry Alton (Sept. 27, 1905) m. Lucille Scott and Emma Johnson Muldenhauer
3. LeRoy (May 19, 1907) m. Isabel Rose
4. Dee H. (June 30, 1911) m. Margaret Mary Casey and Josephine Lewandowski
5. Max C. (June, 1913) mentally retarded from birth
6. James Lewis (Nov. 16, 1915) m. Donna Belle Davis
7. Clarabelle (Dec. 21, 1917) m. David Robert Harper and Edwin Wilford Brockett
8. Velma C. (May 2, 1922) m. Kenneth Coulter
9. Forrest Erwin (Bud) (May 9, 1924) m. Barbara Gayle Kane

THE FAMILY TREE OF HARRY AND ALICE MEAD

1. Harold G. (Feb. 17, 1903-Dec. 24, 1966); m. Anna M. Wright (Apr. 3, 1905). 7 children. Worked as a salesman and later a surface grinder in machine shops in Detroit, although maintaining a home in Merrit, Michigan as well.
    1. Karl Gene (Dec. 11, 1924); m. Edna Jean Armstead (Dec. 15, 192) 4 children.
        1. Richard Allen (Sept. 17, 1949); m. Lois Ann Crispell (Jan. 29, 1953). 1 child.
            1. Karl Alfred (Oct. 31, 1972)
        2. Karla Sue (Dec. 7, 1953); m. Michael W. Labbe (Nov. 24, 1953).
        3. Alice Marie (Jan. 11, 1956)
        4. Harry Lee (Dec. 12, 1959)
    2. Harry Lee (Jan. 7, 1926-Feb. 6, 1945) Killed-in-action in W.W. II in France.
    3. Jack Alton (Nov. 9, 1927) m. Elizabeth Bedwell (May 26, 1930). 6 children. Live in Grayling, Michigan where Jack operates a wholesale beverage distributorship.
        1. Steven Alton (June 3, 1950) m. Carolyn Burtis (July 30, 1948). 3 children.
            1. Steven Edward (Dec. 3, 1967-July 13, 1968)
            2. Scott Wayne (May 30, 1969)
            3. Matthew David (Feb. 19, 1974)
        2. Timothy Harold (Feb. 9, 1953) m. Mary Jane Lovell (Apr. 2, 1955). 1 child.
            1. Joshua Otto (Sept. 12, 1973)
        3. Samual Dean (Aug. 6, 1954) m. Nancy Brown (Feb. 13, 1950). 1 child.
            1. Amy Elizabeth (Aug. 15, 1972)

4. Todd Lee (May 39, 1957)

5. Doris Joy (Sept. 12, 1961)

6. Kathleen Marie (Nov. 18, 1963)

4. Dee Alan (Pete) (Jan. 15, 1930) m. Delores Jean (Chub) Campbell (Aug. 31, 1931). 5 children. Also live in Grayling, Mich. and operates, with Jack, a beverage distributorship.

1. Natalie Beth (May 13, 1950) m. Dale Tinker (Oct. 23, 1948). 2 children.

1. Katie Sue (July 5, 1969)
2. Robert W. (Nov. 9, 1972)

2. Robert Alan (June 26, 1951) m. Patricia Nelson (Nov. 23, 1950). 3 children.

1. Jeremie A. (May 10, 1971)
2. Adam J. (Dec. 15, 1972)
3. Timothy M. (Aug. 12, 1974)

3. Debra Ann (Jan. 6, 1955) m. Leonard Labsenger (Feb. 6, 1951). 1 child.

1. Jody Lynn (May 22, 1973)

4. Milford Dee (March 1, 1956)

5. Pamela Sue (Oct. 2, 1959)

5. Peggy Lou (July 28, 1931) m. Norman Edsel Briggs (July 13, 1927 - July 10, 1964). 4 children.

1. Linda Lou (June 6, 1949) m. Larry Henkel (Apr.26, 1949). 1 child.
   1. Amber Lynn (May 3, 1973)

2. Larry Norman (Nov. 20, 1950) m. Marsha Biebert (May 20, 1949)

3. Judy Ann (Apr. 13, 1952) m. Philip Temple (Aug. 23, 1952)

4. Kenneth Burdette (June 18, 1953) m. Susan Drury (Feb. 11, 1953). 1 child.

1. Wendy Lou (Nov. 17, 1972)

6. Thelma Jan (Feb. 22, 1934) m. Phillippe (Eddy) de Montigny (Oct. 13, 1933). 3 children.

1. Jan Marie (July 31, 1955) m. Timothy Iaconelli. 1 child. Divorced in 1972.

1. Jason Timothy (Dec. 27, 1971)

2. Phillip Mark (July 27, 1957)
3. Harold Joseph (Feb. 22, 1969)

7. Sara Ann (Apr. 2, 1935) m. David Nettle (Mar. 15,1936). 2 children. Live at Houghton Lake, Mich. where they operate a motel.

1. Edward L. (Feb. 26, 1973)
2. Arthur E. (May 9, 1974)

2. Henry Alton (Sept. 27, 1905) m. Lucille Scott (divorced) and Emma (Peggy) Johnson Muldenhauer (June 13, 1907). Worked at a variety of jobs and owned several small businesses over the years. Have lived at St. Martin's Point near Hessel, Michigan since 1949.

3. Leroy (May 19, 1907) m. Isabel Rose (June 6, 1910). 3 children. Worked as a highly skilled tool maker in Detroit area, until retiring and moving back to Harrison.

1. Jean Isabel (Aug. 16, 1930) m. Raymond Hewlett Ellison. 3 children. Live in Okemos, Michigan.
1. Robert Lee (July 22, 1954)

2. Mary Kay (Feb. 22, 1956)

3. William Mead (Oct. 3, 1957)

2. Joan Marie (Oct. 1, 1933) m. Roger Redfern (Dec. 8, 193) 2 children. Live in Madison Heights, Michigan.

    1. Mark Steven (Nov. 22, 1956)

    2. Monta Jean (Aug. 22, 1958)

3. James Erwin (Sept. 15, 1952) m. Christine Meyers (Nov., 1949) 1 child. Live in Oak Park, Michigan.

    1. Jennifer Lynnea (Apr. 25, 1974)

4. Dee Harry (June 30, 1911) m. Margaret Mary Casey (died Jan. 22, 1956) 2 children. Married Josephine Lewandowski. Worked as salesman for Sunshine Biscuits Inc. for 38 years. Now retired in Rochester , Mich.

    1. Marilyn Agnes (Nov. 14, 1934). Joined Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, Ohio on Sept. 8, 1953.

    2. Margaret Ann (Jan. 20, 1940) m. Dr. Charles H. Lewis-DDS. 3 children. Live in Rochester, Mich.

        1. Michael Charles (Aug. 18, 1961)

        2. Margaret Mary (Apr. 6, 1963)

        3. Marie Agnes (Sept. 22, 1968)

5. Max C. (June, 1913) Mentally retarded from birth. Lives in State Home for the Mentally Handicapped in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

6. James L. (Nov. 16, 1915) m. Donna Belle Davis (Nov. 5, 1922) 4 children. A high school teacher for 20 years and now a Professor of Speech and Audio-Visual Communications at Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

1. Douglas Allan (Nov. 23, 1941) m. Judy Ann Haroutunian (Dec. 25, 1941). 3 children. An Assistant Professor of Forestry at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada.

    1. Larissa Araxe (Sept. 18, 1968)
    2. David James (Sept. 6, 1970)
    3. Jennifer Rebecca (July 9, 1974)

2. Carole Lynn (July 21, 1945) m. Colin (Butch) Giles 2 children. Live in Charlevoix, Michigan.

    1. Jeffrey Colin (May 12, 1968)
    2. Henry (Feb. 15, 1972)

3. Steven James (Oct. 22, 1948) m. Leslie 3 children. Joined U.S. Navy in 1966.

    1. Kirstin (Nov. 11, 1971)
    2. Genienne (Oct. 3, 1972)
    3. Jamie Donna (April 18, 1976)

4. John William (June 11, 1952) Living in Pompano Beach, Florida.

7. Clarabelle (Dec. 21, 1917) m. David Robert Harper (July 28, 1915-Jan. 17, 1970) 3 children. Married Edwin Wilford Brockett. Live in Harrison, Michigan.

    1. William Lewis (Mar. 3, 1943) m. Montarae June Schnieder (July 17, 1942) 3 children. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) working as Treasurer for a furniture company. Live in Auburn, Michigan.

        1. Krista Lynn (Jan. 20, 1961)
        2. Steven James (Mar. 14, 1962)
        3. Jill Ann (Oct. 29, 1965)

2. Karen Sue (Aug. 21, 1944) m. Paul Lyle Durbin (June 21, 1941) 3 children. Live near Roscommon, Mich.
   1. Kathryn Mary (Jan. 20, 1966)
   2. David Paul (Oct. 2, 1967)
   3. Lyssa Coleen (Sept. 22, 1971)
3. Mary Joan (Nov. 7, 1954) m. Barry Lee BeDour (Sept. 27, 1953) 1 child. Live in Hessell, Michigan.
   1. Paul William (Dec. 22, 1975).

8. Velma Kathryn (May 2, 1922) m. Kenneth Coulter 3 children. Lived in Roscommon, Mich. Now retired in Ormond Beach, Florida.
   1. Judith Ann (Apr. 2, 1940) m. Lloyd Alan Lawson (divorced) and Frank Saile III. Live in Prudenville, Mich. Judy is a professional model.
      1. Drew Alan Lawson (Dec. 5, 1961)
      2. Lisa Ann Lawson (Mar. 4, 1963)
      3. Kristian Webber Saile (June 2, 1975)
   2. Kenneth (Buddy) Clair (Nov. 28, 1943) m. Janet Marie Ludwig. 2 children. Works for Redman Mobile Homes - Sales Division in New Holland, Pa.
      1. Christopher Todd (Mar. 8, 1973)
      2. Robert (Apr. 11, 1975)
   3. Richard Lee (Aug. 22, 1945) m. Veronica Arleth. Teaches in Industrial Education at Kirkland Community College, Roscommon, Mich. 3 children.
      1. Elizabeth Ann (Oct. 26, 1963)
      2. Kenneth Scott (Oct. 10, 1964)
      3. Kathryn Theresa (May 1, 1971)

9. Forrest (Bud) Erwin (May 9, 1924) m. Barbara Gayle Kane (Oct. 14, 1925). 6 children. Retired from U.S. Air Force as Lieutenant Colonel in 1968. Currently employed as company pilot of Marlette Mobile Home Corp. in Marlette, Michigan.

1. Kathryn Mary (July 27, 1947) m. Wayne Douglas Dawson (July 20, 1944) Live in Greenville, Texas. 2 children.

1. Steven Wade (Jan. 27, 1966)
2. Paula Kristine (Nov. 10, 1966)

2. John Michael (Nov. 5, 1952) m. Amy Louise Goodwin (June 9, 1957)

3. George Patrick (July 16, 1954)

4. Marilyn Gayle (May 17, 1956)

5. Elizabeth Ann (Mar. 21, 1959)

6. Laurie Kristine (July 21, 1963)

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